

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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THE TEXANS ARE READY



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WWI Centennial Event Held at State Capitol

On April 6, the Great War took center stage on the Texas State Capitol's Great Walk.

A ceremonial event marked the 100th anniversary of America's formal entry into World War I. The ceremony in Austin featured state officials and guest speakers, World War I living historians, and artifacts from the war including trench periscopes, a 1914 British Lewis Gun, and other weaponry.

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) helped organize the event with the Texas World War I Centennial Commemoration (TXWWICC), the Texas Military Forces Museum, and the Texas Military Department. The THC also launched a new mobile app tour, "World War I: Texas and the Great

War," which features dynamic images, videos, and maps to help travelers discover Texas' important role in the war. The free app is available at texashistoryapp.com.

During the event, Capitol visitors and school groups paused along the Great Walk to interact with living historians from the Texas Military Forces Museum. Guest speakers included Rep. Rick Miller (R-Sugar Land), Sen. Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels), THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe, and the TXWWICC's Michael D. Visconage.

For more information about commemorating the Great War's centennial, visit thc.texas.gov/wwi or texasworldwar1centennial.org. ★



Visitors talk to living historians at the WWI centennial event at the State Capitol on April 6.



TEXAS GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT LEADERSHIP LETTER

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, OUR COUNTRY entered World War I. Not surprisingly, Texans were at the forefront of the war effort with nearly 1 million residents of our state registering for the draft.

Texas also played a significant role by hosting dozens of training facilities, which allowed thousands of brave soldiers to prepare for service to their country. These contributions helped our great nation emerge victorious, resulting in the United States becoming a world power for the past century.

Last year, I appointed the Texas Historical Commission as the lead state agency to memorialize the World War I centennial with assistance from the Texas World War I Centennial Commemoration volunteer group. Their efforts have resulted in well-attended conferences, valuable educational resources, and even this commemorative issue of *The Medallion*.

These honorable efforts help remind us that nearly 200,000 Texans served in the military during World War I. Tragically, more than 5,000 Texans died in service. Their tombstones—and those of countless World War I veterans who were native Texans or who trained here—rest in hundreds of cemeteries across the state.

Reminders of the World War I era and its enduring impact on the Lone Star State are still visible across Texas. The war's influence is commemorated in our state's military installations, granite monuments, historical markers, and parks.

I encourage you to visit these sites to pay your respects to the heroes of World War I. By doing so, you'll honor the legacy of the soldiers who served Texas and our great nation, allowing us to enjoy the freedoms we value so much today.

Sincerely,

Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas

Lone Star Legacy

Texas Experienced Effects of the ‘War That Will End War’

By Lila Rakoczy

THC Military Sites Program Coordinator

President Woodrow Wilson’s 1916 re-election campaign slogan—He Kept Us Out of War—wasn’t accurate for long.

Just one month after his inauguration, on April 6, 1917, the United States would find itself joining the “Great War” that had been raging since 1914. It had already brought powerful empires to their knees.

Texas experienced its fair share of the war’s effects. Nearly 200,000 men served in the military, with thousands more laboring on the home front in agriculture, shipbuilding, and timber. City populations swelled: Beaumont doubled and Port Arthur tripled in size by the end of the decade, while places like San Antonio and Fort Worth cemented their status as nationally important centers of aviation. Social change permeated many aspects of the Lone Star State, most notably in the form of women’s suffrage and alcohol prohibition—the winds of war would help bring about both.

By its end in 1918, the “war that will end war,” as author H.G. Wells famously put it, would transform the world. It unleashed industrialized warfare on an unprecedented scale, killed and wounded millions, weakened or destroyed global powers, and forced the United States further into political isolationism.

Like all the combatant nations, America did not emerge unscathed. In a short amount of time, 4.7 million American men were mobilized, from a peacetime standing military of 100,000. Over 116,000 would die in the conflict—a further 200,000 were wounded.



Soldiers participate in bayonet practice at Fort Worth’s Camp Bowie ca. 1918.

On the home front, the Espionage and Sedition Acts of 1917 and 1918 criminalized anti-war dissent and made life difficult for Americans with complicated—or downright hostile—feelings about their country’s involvement in what some thought of as a “rich man’s war, poor man’s fight.” Wilson’s appeal to make the “world safe for democracy” was questioned by the millions of Americans who continued to be afforded little or no democracy, especially in the Jim Crow South.

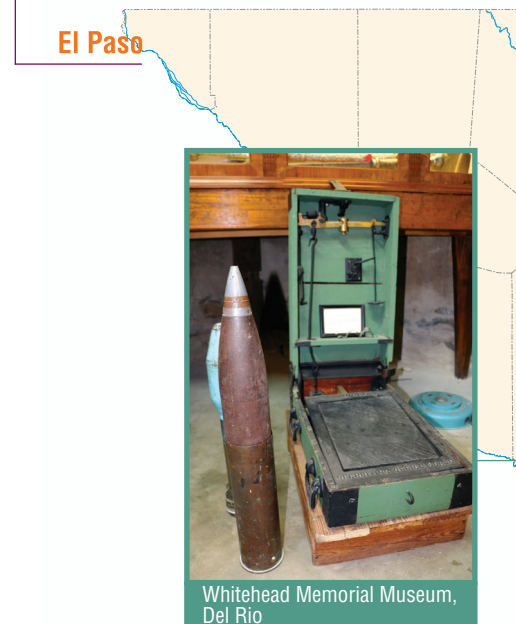
In many ways, the First World War is a forgotten war. A 2014 YouGov poll revealed that while three quarters of Americans believe the history of World War I is relevant today, only half can correctly identify when it began, and only a little over a third know when the U.S. entered it.

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) seeks to change that. Designated by Governor Abbott in 2016 as the lead state agency to commemorate the centennial of America’s entry into the war, the THC will spend the next two years highlighting the stories of everyday Texans, both at home and abroad, who brought change to the world—and were in turn forever changed by their wartime experiences. ★



Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon

El Paso Museum of History, El Paso



Whitehead Memorial Museum, Del Rio

LONE STAR LEGACY MAP KEY

■ Texas facilities hosted training for WWI pilots in 1917-18

■ Texas sites hosting WWI-related exhibits

✈ Air Force Base





Barron Field, Fort Worth

This map shows a sampling of how World War I impacted all corners of Texas. Its legacy is accessible today throughout the Lone Star State. From exhibits to monuments to archives, resources related to the Great War provide information about local and statewide contributions. The THC features a list of these ongoing attractions at thc.texas.gov/WWI



Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site, Denison



National Museum of the Pacific War, Fredericksburg



Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, Austin

NML
NO MAN'S LAND

EAST TEXAS AFRICAN AMERICANS IN WWI

"No Man's Land: East Texas African Americans in World War I" Traveling Exhibit

East Texas Historical Association



Texas Air Museum, San Antonio



Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, Houston



THE GREAT WAR'S HERITAGE ENDURES

Restored Armament Among Central Texas' Resurrected WWI Attractions

Until this year's 100th anniversary of America's entry into World War I, many Texans didn't give the Great War much thought. Now that commemorative events are being held across the state, World War I will receive the recognition and respect befitting the conflict once dubbed the "war that will end war."

Texans contributed to the war's efforts in great numbers, and this legacy is honored throughout the Lone Star State with monuments and exhibits at museums, research centers, and universities. The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) contributions include developing a website,

war-themed historical markers, commemorative editions of *The Medallion*, and a mobile tour showcasing stories and cultural attractions, available at texashistoryapp.com.

Two of these stories focus on Central Texas museums with vintage World War I equipment restored to working condition. One documents an extremely rare Army tank at the Museum of the American G.I. near College Station. The 1918 French Renault FT-17 is considered the world's first modern tank—its configuration and revolving turret set the standard for tank design that remains today.

"This is the only running FT-17 in North America," says Brent Mullins, the museum's president and CEO. "I've been working on it a few years to get it ready in time for the centennial."

Mullins adds that after the war, 99 percent of these tanks were either scrapped or modified for World War II. His was one of the few to be surplused. In the late 1920s, it wound up in Northern Michigan, where a company used it to build roads and clear snow. A local resident eventually bought the tank, which stayed in his family for decades.

"Those of us interested in this kind of rare equipment knew about it, so I called him out of the blue in 2004," Mullins says. "He said he

Above: The WWI-era hangar from Fort Sam Houston is being reconstructed at the Pioneer Flight Museum.
Left: The museum's Fokker Dr.1.



was just about to sell it, so we worked out a price. It was a bit more than I'd planned to pay, but I had to get it. I think this tank is priceless."

As the World War I centennial approached, Mullins vowed to get the tank running again. He worked with several people in Europe to get information and parts (including the oak wheels), and consulted an original FT-17 material guide to replicate the camouflage.

"Two American tank battalions saw early combat in France—one was the 345th, and that number was printed on the back of this tank," Mullins explains. "So, it's very plausible that this tank saw combat in France with U.S. servicemen. Now we have it at the museum, and it's going to be preserved forever. I believe it's a priceless American artifact."

The tank and other functioning vehicles from the war were on display

April 7 at a World War I centennial event hosted by the **Museum of the American G.I.** (americangimuseum.com, 979-446-6888). Mullins claims the museum owns the most World War I artifacts in Texas, and many of them are featured in a special exhibit running through 2019.

Taking a similar approach to restoring vintage equipment to operational status is Kingsbury's **Pioneer Flight Museum** (pioneerflightmuseum.org, 830-639-4644). The facility showcases early aviation covering three main eras: Pioneer, World War I, and the Golden Age (roughly 1918–1939). One of the museum's most striking objects is a World War I-era hangar from San Antonio's Fort Sam Houston. The hangar, which the Army relocated several times, is currently being reconstructed on site, and will eventually serve as the main museum building.

Another notable restoration project is a World War I-era Royal Aircraft SE-5A. Museum Director Roger Freeman has rebuilt planes for decades—starting with an original Thomas Morse S4C Scout with his father—but the SE-5A is especially rewarding for him.



Top: Vintage vehicles and aircraft are on display at Kingsbury's Pioneer Flight Museum. Above: The only running FT-17 tank in North America is at the Museum of the American G.I. Inset: A WWI military ID card.

Freeman notes that the plane's fuselage, a wire-braced wood truss, was typically covered by fabric and plywood. The SE-5A was considered one of the fastest, most maneuverable biplane dogfighters of the war. European manufacturers produced more than 5,000 of these planes, which featured a synchronized machine gun and wing-mounted gun, and were the first to be equipped with a pilot-adjustable tail-plane.

The museum features several additional World War I-era planes on site; most of them are in running condition and take to the skies during special events held throughout the year. A highlight is

the Kingsbury-branded barnstormer Curtiss Canuck, which the U.S. Army used extensively in Texas to train American and

Canadian pilots. Another eye-catcher is a triplane known as the Fokker Dr.1. The Fokker was one of the most famous fighter planes of World War I due to its association with the feared German ace Baron Manfred von Richthofen, aka the Red Baron.

"World War I doesn't get as much attention as World War II, and that's kind of a shame," Mullins says. "It's almost too late now, but I'm glad we have the centennial to remind

people of this significant event in world history." ★



The Museum of the American G.I. features vintage WWI equipment, including this Puteaux cannon.

Learning to Fly

Texas Airfields Played Important Roles in World War I Aviation Training

By Jim Hodgson

Executive Director, Fort Worth Aviation Museum

When the United States entered the Great War in April 1917, conflict in Europe had been raging for 32 months. By all accounts, the nation was unprepared in terms of men, equipment, training, and combat experience to be an effective partner in defeating Germany and its allies.

Nowhere was this more evident than in the Aviation Section of the U.S. Army Signal Corps. In his 1931 book *My Experiences in the World War*,

Gen. John Pershing recalled:

“Of the 65 officers and about 1,000 men in the Air Service, there were 35 officers who could fly. With the exception of five or six officers, none of them could have met the requirements of modern battle conditions and none had any experience with aircraft guns, bombs, or bombing devices. We had some 55 training airplanes in various conditions of usefulness, all entirely without war equipment and valueless for service at the front.”

By 1918, the U.S. was considerably more prepared, thanks in part to Texas resources. Hundreds of airplanes and servicemen were housed at training fields



“Of the 65 officers and about 1,000 men in the Air Service, there were 35 officers who could fly....We had some 55 training airplanes in various conditions of usefulness, all entirely without war equipment and valueless for service at the front.”

—Gen. John Pershing

across the Lone Star State. Texas bases provided training for flying, bombing, aerial gunnery, aircraft repair, and other duties.

This assistance was set in motion when the Air Service and Royal Flying Corps Canada (RFC) developed plans in May 1917 for the Canadians to train pilots and ground support personnel to man 10 squadrons for the Air Service. In exchange for their support, the RFC could continue training at fields in the U.S. during the harsh Canadian winters.

During the summer of 1917, the RFC began training Air Service pilots and ground support personnel alongside Canadian, British, and American

airmen of the RFC. Over a five-day period in November 1917, the RFC moved its training program and 254 aircraft to Texas, where it continued cadet training during the winter of 1917-18. Two training wings of five squadrons each and their School of Aerial Gunnery occupied three Fort Worth-area fields (Barron near Everman, Carruthers at Benbrook, and Taliaferro 12 miles north of Fort Worth near Hicks Station). The 10 American squadrons that began training in Canada left Fort Worth for England and France between December 1917 and March 1918.

When the Royal Air Force (RAF) returned to Canada in April 1918 (the RFC was renamed at that time), it had logged 67,000 flying hours and trained 1,552 RAF pilots, 408 Air Service pilots, 1,719 RAF ground support personnel, and 2,500 Air Service ground support personnel. The RAF also lost 39 members to aviation accidents and other causes. Eleven members are buried in the Royal Flying Corps Cemetery in Fort Worth's Greenwood Memorial Park.

Aviation activity also provided an economic influx for Texas communities that hosted training facilities. The U.S. Congress appropriated a mind-boggling sum of \$640 million for aviation



Far left: A crew poses at Barron Field near Fort Worth.

Left, bottom: A 1918 newspaper from Taliaferro Field chronicles the heroic deeds of its former trainees.

(\$11 billion in today's dollars). The Air Service set about the seemingly impossible task of building an air force from scratch to meet the demands of the Allies in Europe. Its initial tasks were to create a network of training schools and flying fields; develop curriculum for pilot training and technical support skills to assemble and maintain aircraft, engines, and other combat equipment; and acquire training airplanes and instructors. There was no shortage of recruits.

The training program they developed evolved through ground schools and primary pilot training, then moved to advanced training in pursuit, bombers, and observation aircraft. The Air Service created Schools of Military Aeronautics (SMA) at eight universities to provide ground training for prospective pilots.

The University of Texas at Austin hosted one of those schools, which was largely staffed by college faculty members who taught courses on aeronautics, engines, and meteorology. Army instructors provided basic military training to the new recruits. Penn Field was also established near Austin's St. Edwards College to support the SMA program; it later became an aviation radio training school operated by the university.

Camp Dick on the Texas State Fairgrounds in Dallas was established to temporarily house recruits from the ground training schools until they could be assigned to one of the flying training fields. Initial phases of gunnery training were also conducted there.



Carruthers Field near Fort Worth.

By early 1918, the Air Service had constructed 28 aviation fields to support its training program. Each field occupied about one square mile and was built using a standard layout and set of plans for hangars, barracks, mess halls, classrooms, repair shops, a hospital, and other support buildings to accommodate up to 400 cadets. Each field cost around \$1 million, required over 4 million feet of lumber, and employed more than 700 carpenters and 1,200 other workers during the typical eight-week construction phase.

When the war ended in November 1918, the Army Air Service had five ground schools, 14 primary flying training fields, three observer training fields, two bomber training fields, two pursuit pilot training fields, five aerial gunnery and bombing training fields, and two instructor training fields.

For more information about aviation history and related resources in Texas during World War I, visit thc.texas.gov/WWImarkers. ★

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Camp Logan Mutiny Revisited

Houston Riot Impacted U.S. Mobilization in World War I

By Lila Rakoczy

THC Military Sites Program Coordinator

Houston's Memorial Park gives little indication today that it once hosted a military camp, let alone one that sparked one of the most tragic military mutinies in American history. And yet, the event that would become known as the Camp Logan Mutiny—or to some, the Houston Riot—would have a deep impact on how America mobilized for the First World War.

War fever gripped the nation in 1917. Houston civic leaders saw an opportunity, and successfully lobbied to host a new National Guard training camp. To protect the site during its construction, the War Department—amidst heavy criticism—sent the 3rd Battalion of the 24th Infantry Regiment, an African American regular army unit of seasoned military veterans.

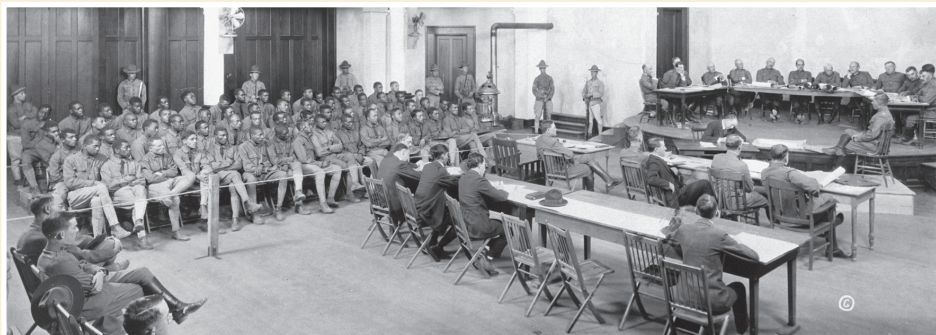
Six hundred and forty-five men took up temporary residence near Camp Logan. Relations were immediately tense: the soldiers resented racial slurs directed at them by white workmen at the camp's construction site, as well as segregation restrictions in the camp and city. To placate the local white population, soldiers who went into Houston—even military police—were denied the right to carry weapons.

August 23, 1917

Matters came to a head when two Houston police officers disturbed a dice game and burst into a citizen's home

to search for the suspects. When the African American resident objected, a police officer dragged her into the street in her undergarments.

A nearby army private, Alonzo Edwards, tried to peacefully intervene and was pistol whipped and arrested. Later, an African American military policeman inquired after Edwards and was similarly beaten and arrested. By evening, erroneous rumors reached the camp that police had killed Cpl. Charles Baltimore.



The U.S. government placed 63 soldiers on trial at Fort Sam Houston's Gift Chapel after the Houston Riot.

Pandemonium ensued. Most of the garrison followed orders to stay and, fearing the worst, prepared for a possible attack. Perhaps as many as a quarter of them grabbed arms and headed into the city. In the resulting violence, several Houstonians were wounded and 17 killed. Among the dead were five police officers. As dawn broke, Gov. James Ferguson declared martial law in the city.

Court Martial and Sentence

Confusion over which soldiers had participated did not deter the government from charging 63 men. Everyone pleaded not guilty, and shared just one lawyer among them.

On November 29, a verdict was returned: Forty-one men were sentenced to hard labor, four to shorter prison sentences, and five acquitted. Thirteen were sentenced to death. The condemned men were not told their fate until two days before their execution; nor was time permitted to appeal for clemency. Instead, the execution was hastily carried out before dawn. Their request to be shot was denied. The gallows upon which they were hanged were gone by the time news broke to the public.

Aftermath

The fallout of the events had far-reaching consequences. Public opinion pushed the Wilson administration to keep the four regular Army units—the 24th

and 25th Infantry Regiments, and the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments—far from France. In their place, African American men were deployed from National Guard units, mostly in the North, and an even larger force of drafted civilians from across the U.S. Beyond the war, the treatment of the 24th Infantry galvanized black America to push for changes in how military law was administered.

For more information on Camp Logan and the Camp Logan Mutiny, see the THC's Texas and the Great War: WWI mobile tour app (texashistoryapp.com). ★

Marking World War I

THC Commemorates Famous and Little-Known Stories of the Great War

By Bob Brinkman
THC Historical Markers Coordinator

More than 16,000 Official Texas Historical Markers are placed around the state, with several commemorating famous or little-known aspects of World War I.



Camp Scurry near Corpus Christi

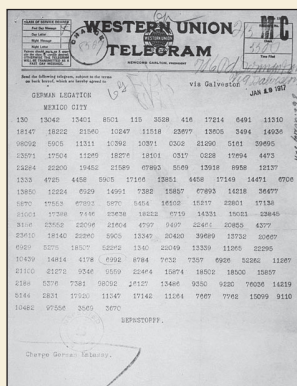
Dozens of stories—including the First Officers Training Camp at Leon Springs, Fort Worth's burial plot for Great Britain's Royal Flying Corps, and the 1918 Peace Monument at Water Valley—have been added to the Lone Star landscape of public history.

As the centenary of notable dates and events from World War I progresses, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) will consider World War I a priority theme for marker applications submitted this fall.

This year, four new markers relating tales of World War I have been approved and are under production to add to the stories we will tell for generations to come.

Telegraph cables laid beneath the waters of the Gulf of Mexico in the 1880s played a role in America's entry into World War I. Because German transatlantic cables were cut, the **Zimmermann Telegram** was transmitted from Berlin to Washington, D.C.; it was then transferred

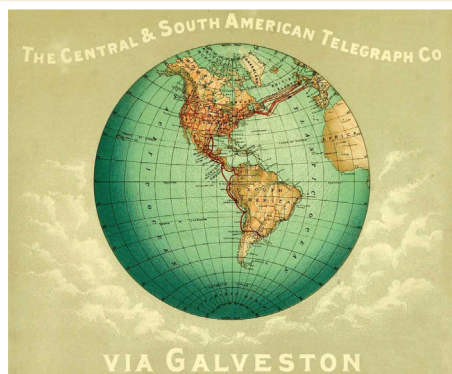
The Zimmermann Telegram, which transferred through Galveston, represented a turning point in WWI.



to Galveston and across the gulf to the Mexican government in January 1917. The encrypted telegram referenced the possibility of Mexico regaining lost territory in the American Southwest (including Texas) if they aided Germany. The

decoded message was carried in U.S. newspapers on March 1, 1917, which changed some citizens' opinions and solidified President Wilson's view that American intervention in the war was inevitable.

In 1916, **Camp Scurry** was established as a 200-acre National Guard mobilization and training camp along the bay in Corpus Christi. The site was made ready in a week, with shell-topped roads, water and electricity, wooden mess halls, and canvas tents for more than 3,000 troops. The Second and Third Infantry Regiments transferred there from the Mexican border in the fall, but by March 1917 the post was closed and the facilities were being dismantled. When war with Germany was declared, the camp was reactivated as a training base and remained open until 1919.

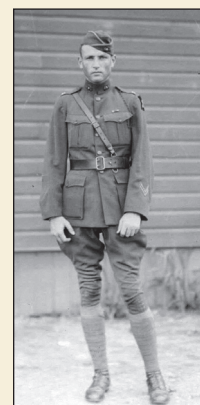


John William Thomason, Jr. of Huntsville joined the Marine Corps and served in five major campaigns of the Western Front, receiving the Silver Star, Navy Cross, and Air Medal. Thomason uniquely combined his military service with his creative gifts, publishing more than 60 magazine articles and writing 11 illustrated books, including the popular *Fix Bayonets!* (1926), reflecting the Marine experience in the war.

Thomason served in the Marines for

27 years, including a series of World War II assignments until his death in 1944. He received several posthumous honors, including the dedication of the navy destroyer *USS John W. Thomason*.

Training, instruction, and activities became a priority at **Texas A&M College in World War I**. The day after Congress declared war on Germany, the prescribed time for military instruction for students was increased to 10 hours per week, with a corresponding increase in time devoted to target



John William Thomason, Jr.

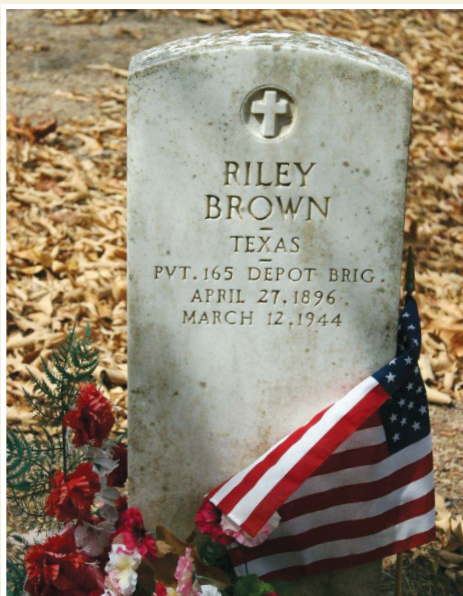
practice. By December, the college was designated a training base for the U.S. Army's Signal Corps and a training detachment of mechanics and technicians. More than 2,200 Aggies served in the war, with 55 making the ultimate sacrifice. ★

Cemetery Commemoration

THC Assists with Honoring WWI Veterans' Gravesites

By Carlyn Hammons and Jenny McWilliams
THC Cemetery Preservation Program

If your cemetery, community, veterans group, or County Historical Commission is planning an event to memorialize the World War I centennial, the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Historic Cemetery Preservation Program provides the following suggestions for commemorative activities.



Cemeteries across Texas contain gravestones of WWI veterans.

Adorning Graves with Flags and Poppies.

Flags are usually the first thing that come to mind when honoring veterans buried in our local cemeteries. Placing the flags is an activity that can involve many different types of community groups, bringing welcome attention to your commemorative efforts.

If you choose to host this activity, be aware of any cemetery rules that limit the amount of time flags are left at the graves, as well as etiquette for removing flags at the appropriate time. The American Legion, for example,

advises their posts to remove the flags as soon as possible after the holiday. Storms or wind may cause flags to become tattered or blown away from the gravesite, resulting in disrespect to both the deceased and the flag.

The idea of spreading poppy seeds at veterans' graves is also occasionally suggested as a form of commemoration at individual gravesites. While this idea is intended to be respectful, it may not be appreciated in the future when tall poppies dot the cemetery lawn and make routine maintenance challenging. Another use of the seeds could be at the entrance to the cemetery or a dedicated poppy bed away from the graves.

Lasting Memorials. While flag displays and poppy blooms are fitting memorials, they have short lifespans. Consider other types of memorials that have a long-lasting impact, such as a sturdy sign or stone monument recognizing the veterans interred in the cemetery. Establishing a permanent fund or making a monetary contribution to a cemetery in honor of a veteran is another way to help ensure the cemetery can continue caring for the graves of these respected men and women for years to come. Other ideas are available on the Texas World War I Centennial Commemoration's webpage at texasworldwar1centennial.org.

Knowing the law. If you're planning a cemetery event, you may need to be aware of cemetery access laws. While Texas law provides access for any individual to visit cemeteries, it does

not provide permission to trespass. If a cemetery is only accessible by crossing private property, you must acquire permission prior to visiting the cemetery.

Working with descendants, cemetery associations, and other caretakers.

While the law allows us to access all cemeteries, holding an event is considered more intrusive. If you're planning an event that involves a cemetery you are not directly associated with,

be courteous when working with the association or caretaker. Well-meaning participants can occasionally cause irreversible damage by stripping cemeteries of cultural features mistaken for trash or nuisance vegetation.

Planning for logistics. A cemetery's location, size, and condition could preclude certain types of events. Cemeteries are fragile resources that are easily harmed by a large crowd, too many vehicles, and ceremonial props. Providing plenty of chairs, for example, will prevent the temptation to sit or lean on gravemarkers. ★



An extended version of this article is available at thc.texas.gov/blog.

Camp Life Legacy

Texas Military Posts Transformed Lives of Soldiers, Communities

By Bob Brinkman
THC Historical Markers Coordinator

The presence of tens of thousands of soldiers, airmen, and Marines during the First World War made a profound impression on Texas, and vice versa. The influx of troops brought temporary population rises to some cities, and permanent contributions to infrastructure, commerce, and social change in others. Military training and memories made an indelible imprint on Texas' future ambassadors to the nation and the world.

In response to continuing unrest along the U.S.-Mexico border, President Woodrow Wilson ordered National Guard units of three southwestern states (including Texas) into federal service on May 9, 1916. By July, 14 states were on duty along the international boundary. El Paso's Fort Bliss was the headquarters for Gen. John J. Pershing's Punitive Expedition into Mexico. Most guardsmen in Texas did not cross the border, but instead received valuable training for looming combat in Europe.

units went to France in February 1918. Camp MacArthur later became an infantry replacement and training camp. It was also an officers training school, demobilizing 11,000 troops in December 1918.

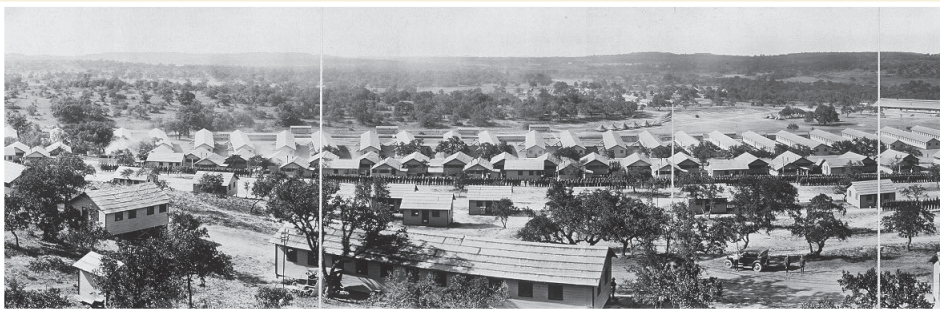
Charles Clough instructed 25 cadets flying the Curtiss JN-4 "Jenny" at Call Field, a training field near Wichita Falls for the U.S. Army Air Service. In a 1957 *Wichita Falls Times* article, he related the pilots' most critical concern:

This 1918 photo below shows the 36th Division in review in Fort Worth.



dedicated a granite monument to the memory of Call Field and the 34 men killed during training.

Following the U.S. declaration of war in April 1917, eight camps were established to train officers for combat leadership. The first opened northwest of San Antonio on the former Schasse Ranch at Leon Springs, with more than 3,000 troops arriving on May 8, 1917. After three months of training at Camp Funston (later Leon Springs Military Reservation), 1,846 second lieutenants graduated in August. The First Officers Training Camp motto was "Brave Men Shall Not Die Because I Faltered."



Near Waco, more than 10,000 acres were transformed into Camp MacArthur to train the National Guard's 32nd Division. The maximum troop population exceeded 27,000, at a time when Waco's civilian population numbered 32,000. Most early arrivals were from Michigan and Wisconsin, later joined by other states. The first

"Planes were equipped with a hand pump which had a crooked handle like an umbrella, and the student in back had to maintain a pressure of four pounds for forced feed of gasoline," Clough recalled. "Not more and not less; if the pressure went up too high a backfire might blow up the plane." In 1937, the local American Legion post

A panoramic image of the Leon Springs camp near San Antonio, left.

In a Fort Worth café in 1931, three of the "First Campers" organized an association of these comrades in arms, which held annual reunions for more than 50 years. On the eve of American involvement in another global conflict in 1941, Col. Robert T. Phinney wrote to his men who trained at Leon Springs, "Not a single man was false to his oath. I shall always know in the years to come that you are carrying on, in everything you attempt, with the same zeal, cheerfulness, and guts that characterized your work in 1917, for men of your kind don't change." ★

Battleship *Texas* Tour Features WWI Naval History

Ever wonder what's behind all those locked doors aboard the battleship *Texas*? Now you can find out! The First Texas Volunteers will host Hard Hat Tours on the *USS Texas* May 20 at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 1 p.m. Participants will be able to explore areas of the ship rarely seen by the public.

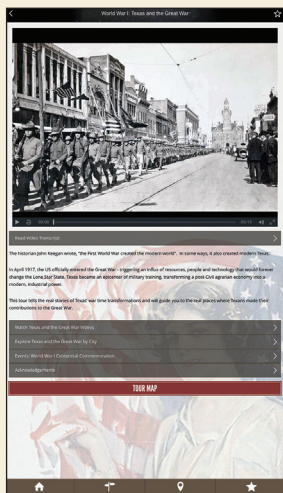
The *USS Texas* is the last remaining battleship that participated in both World War I and World War II. The U.S. Navy commissioned the ship on March 12, 1914. At that time, she was considered the most powerful weapon in the world—a complex product of an industrial nation emerging as a force in global events. In 1916, the *USS Texas* became the first U.S. battleship to mount anti-aircraft guns. In World War I, she joined the 6th Battle Squadron of the British Grand Fleet.

Fate spared *USS Texas* as she fought in two wars. Now she is fighting for survival against age and rust. In 2008, the Texas legislature approved \$25 million to work on the repairs, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department continues working with the Battleship Texas Foundation (battleshiptexas.org) and other partners to ensure the ship's best possible care.

Tour reservations are required, with a minimum donation of \$50 per person requested. Proceeds will ensure this last remaining dreadnought-style ship will endure for future generations to enjoy. To make reservations, visit firsttexasvolunteers.org. For more information about the *USS Texas*, go to tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/battleship-Texas or call 281-479-2431. ★



Experience the *USS Texas*' off-limits areas at a May 20 Hard Hat Tour.



THC RELEASES WWI MOBILE TOUR

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) recently released “WWI: Texas and the Great War,” a mobile tour featuring new content and human-interest stories that bring Texas’ World War I-related history to life through audio, slideshows, and video.

World War I impacted Texas and Texans forever. Witness the dramatic changes in the state’s landscape, industry, society, and populations through stories of valiant people and the roles of

surprising sites such as parks, stadiums, airfields, forts, universities, and ships.

The tour is free and available for download from smartphone app stores and the THC’s travel website, texasimetravel.com. While there, check out the agency’s other new mobile tour, “The Chisholm Trail: Exploring the Folklore and Legacy.” The mobile tours allow users to experience these different eras of Texas history through images and self-guided expeditions to explore familiar destinations in Texas and discover new heritage attractions. ★

THC LAUNCHES GOLIAD MASSACRE VIDEO TRAILER

The THC recently launched a trailer for a soon-to-be-released five-minute web movie about the tragic story of the Goliad Massacre. The trailer and short film use 360-degree video technology, giving Texas history enthusiasts a new way to study and enjoy the historical content.

The main THC film, slated for release on May 15, will feature new information and video footage of significant artifacts, the role of Col. James W. Fannin, and ties to the Battle of Coleto Creek. The trailer is available at thc.texas.gov/trailer.

APPLY NOW TO BECOME A MAIN STREET COMMUNITY

The application period is now open for cities to apply to the THC’s Texas Main Street Program. Each year the THC may select up to five Texas cities to participate in the program.

Local Main Street programs receive a wide range of services and technical expertise from the THC, including design and historic preservation, planning, economic development, organizational management, and training.

Optional letters of intent are due to the THC by June 2, and applications are due July 31. Application information and webinar details are available on the THC’s website at thc.texas.gov/mainstreet. ★

Soldiers of Many Stripes

The Multicultural Dimensions of World War I Mobilization

By Doug Harman

Member, Texas World War I Centennial Commemoration

When the U.S. declared war against Germany in 1917, the Army draft resulted in thousands of men from different racial, ethnic, regional, economic, educational, and religious backgrounds becoming American soldiers. An important story of the war is the inclusion of these men of various backgrounds into a brave fighting force to support the country.

African Americans served in great numbers. More than 367,000 were drafted into the Army, with 140,000 serving in France and 40,000 seeing combat. At Fort Worth's Camp Bowie, where nearly 3,000 African American soldiers trained, Jim Crow practices resulted in blacks being segregated into separate units mainly commanded by white officers.

Although African Americans received military instruction at Camp Bowie, they were denied combat roles and mainly performed maintenance and construction duties. African American soldiers at other Texas camps received full combat instruction and hundreds fought overseas.

Despite many American Indians being denied citizenship, recruits received regular combat training. American

Indians from at least 13 tribes trained at Camp Bowie, including men from the Comanche, Choctaw, Iroquois, Mohawk, and Wyandot nations.



The Choctaw Telephone Squad became famous for code talking in WWI.

The Choctaw brought a special skill to military tactics—their language was used to confuse the Germans, who were tapping into U.S. communication lines. A U.S. commander asked Choctaw soldiers to transmit orders in their unique language over wire lines, a practice that became known as code talking.

When the U.S. entered the war, Mexican Americans faced discrimination

due to the suspicion that Mexico was favoring Germany, resulting in the loyalty of some Mexican Americans being questioned. Despite this, many became

U.S. soldiers and were fully integrated into combat roles, often serving in command positions.

One of the war's highest ranking Hispanics came from a prominent family. Capt. August De Zavala, a descendent of Texas Revolution patriot Lorenzo De Zavala, was commander of the Machine Gun Company of Camp Bowie's 143rd Infantry.

Although the war did not alter the many injustices of the era, it provided culturally disenfranchised groups a way to demonstrate their impressive capabilities, patriotism, and pride. Wartime service led to national

legislation granting American Indians citizenship, perhaps the most dramatic change of status for any group facing discrimination during this time. Training as soldiers also boosted the education and skills of many men who had been away from their hometowns and ranches, thereby helping introduce them to the larger and changing world. ★

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Our Mission

To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations.

NOTICE

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WHERE ON EARTH...IN TEXAS

Know your Texas history? Put your skills to the test by identifying the pictured site! The first three people who correctly identify the location will receive a prize and be named in the next issue of *The Medallion*. Send your answer to: *The Medallion*, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276 or email to medallion@thc.texas.gov. Limit one prize annually per contestant.

Need a clue? This building, the sole surviving World War I-related structure of its kind, was recently rehabilitated in a city known for its military heritage.



Answer to the photo from the last issue: The photo at left is the clock tower atop the 1891 Colorado County Courthouse in Columbus. It was restored with the help of the THC's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program in 2014. Congratulations and prizes go to the first three readers who correctly identified the site: Mildred Bohlmann of Schulenburg, Joe Fling of Eagle Lake, and Susan Rogers of Columbus. Thanks to all who participated! ★

